

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 234376

FOR NEUBERT FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. WE HAD A MEETING WITH ART ON MRS. R'S TRIP AND ART MADE SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS BASED ON HIS PREVIOUS DEALINGS. FOR CONTROL OFFICERS HE WISHES THAT THEY SHOULD KEEP CLOSE TRACK OF EVERYTHING, BUT MAKE SURE THAT THEY DO NOT PUSH THEMSELVES INTO SITUATIONS IN WHICH THEY MIGHT NOT BE WANTED. MRS. R PREFERS EFFICIENT BUT UNOBTRUSIVE ASSISTANCE. CHARGE AND CONGEN SHOULD MEET ON ARRIVAL AND TELL HER THAT ALL SERVICES OF THE EMBASSY AND CONGEN ARE AVAILABLE IF NEEDED AND THEN LEAVE IT UP TO HER THEREAFTER. ART ALSO SUGGESTED THAT YOU HAVE SOME MATEUS ROSE WINE ON HAND IF POSSIBLE.

2. ART WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE QUESTION OF WHO WOULD BE MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PARTY AND WONDERED IF THE SOVIETS WOULD TRY TO TAKE ON THE WHOLE VISIT, I.E. OFFERING A GUEST HOUSE, PROVIDING AN INTERPRETER AND SOMEONE TO ACCOMPANY, ETC. WE ASSURED HIM THAT THE EMBASSY AND CONGEN

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WOULD BE ON TOP OF THINGS AND WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE ALL

ARRANGEMENTS DIRECTLY IF SOVIETS DID NOT TAKE AND OVERLY ACTIVE ROLE IN THIS. WHEN WE ASKED MRS. R'S PEOPLE INFORMALLY ABOUT THIS, THEY THOUGHT SHE MIGHT WELCOME A SOVIET OFFER TO ASSIST AND PROVIDE ACCOMMODATIONS. THEY ALSO THOUGHT SHE WOULD ACCEPT INVITATION FOR SMALL DINNER PARTY BY CHARGE AND CG, IF OFFERED, AS LONG AS IT IS NOT BIG OR ELABORATE. THEY HAD NOT CHECKED WITH HER, HOWEVER.

3. WE HAVE POSED ALL THE QUESTIONS YOU RAISED IN MOSCOW'S CABLE TO MRS. R'S PEOPLE AND HOPE TO HAVE ANSWERS SOON. WE POINTED OUT THAT VISAS, FLIGHT CLEARANCES, HOTELS, ETC. WERE NOT HANDLED IN SAME WAY AS IN WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. ART FEARS THERE WILL BE A TENDENCY NOT TO FORCUS ON QUESTIONS AND PROBLEMS UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE AND SUGGESTS THE EMBASSY AND CONGEN COME IN WITH A CABLE MAKING SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS ON THINS TO DO, PLACES TO SEE, ACCOMMODATIONS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND ANYTHING ELSE YOU CAN THINK OF.

4. USIA RAISED QUESTION ABOUT KEOGH VISIT TO LENINGRAD. IS THERE NO WAY TO SURMOUNT THE SERVANT PROBLEM AND PUT HIM UP AT THE PALACE? ROBINSON

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